THE COMIC READER #28 AUGUST '64

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ACADEMY OF COMIC BOOK FANS & COLLECTORS
PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY GLEN JOHNSON, BOX 126, CROWNPOINT, NEW MEXICO 87313

Pro or not pro news

Russ Manning's letter which appeared in TCR #27 has caused quite a lot of controversy. I've received many lenghthy letters dealing with the subject. Space would not permit the printing of these letters.

Only two fans agree with Mr. Manning's views. One had suggested that only pro news appear in TCR, and that opinions and the zine review appear under seperate titles, sent with, but not attached to TCR.

As it appears, the policy of publishing TCR will continue as it has in the past. Many fans feel that some opinions are needed. Whether the opinions are in double parenthesis or not, the readers are aware that the opinions expressed are solely mine. Others wrote that TCR is "the OFFICIAL newsletter", and therefore it should contain pro news. The following sentence is a general summary of the letters favoring the policy used in TCR. We realize that the opinions expressed are not those of fandom, but those of one person, the editor.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the readers for supporting TCR.

From the editor

Although I haven't had time to answer all LOC, I thank everyone for writing.

TCR #27 was a rush job. I wanted to complete it before leaving on vacation, July 7th. It was printed and mailed the day before I left.

After returning, I was flooded with subs due to the ad for TCR, appearing in the Rocket's Blast #31. I had all I could do, filling orders.

During my trip I stopped in Columbia to see Biljo White. The good Captain was quite disturbed when lightning knocked out the electricity. We were up 'til wee hours of the morning discussing fan activities.

The following day I left for Ill, where my parents live. While in Rockford, Ill. I met two comic fans, who were not acquainted with fandom. Aside from selling a few items, I enjoyed telling them all about fandom.

From Rockford I traveled north to Superior, Wisconsin. In Duluth, Minnesota, across the Bay from Superior, Larry Lattanzi had fashioned a small meet. I'll leave the details to Larry, which can be found in TCR #28.

A week later I left Superior heading home, but stopped in Iowa to call Sol Davidson. As luck would have it, he was out of town on business. Upon arriving in Crownpoint on Friday, July 24, I spent that night, and the next two days filling orders for TCR #27 and answering letters.

Paid Advertisement

Any collector who had had unpleasant dealings with William Gilmour Jussup, Pa., contact: S.M. Davidson, 5200 Shriver Ave. Des Moines, Iowa.

CALENDAR FOR THE ANNUAL ALLEY AWARDS POLL

Oct.	31	Deadline for all fanzines to be considered. (All fanzines should reach Board Members before this date.)
Nov.	1-15	Nominating ballots will go out to Board Members.
Dec.	15	Deadline for all nominations.
Jan.	1-	Final ballots are mailed out with TCR or are available
Feb.	28	from the Executive Secretary for 10¢.
Mar.	15	Final deadline for all ballots.
May	1	Announcement of the ALLEY AWARDS.

Encourage all comics fans to send for a ballot and VOTE!!!

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THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF THE ACADEMY OF COMIC-BOOK FANS & COLLECTORS

Two-year term (1964-66)

Jerry G. Bails
Jeremy Barry
E. Nelson Bridwell
Richard Durell
Ronn Foss
Paul Gambaccini
Margaret Gemignani
Don Glut
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One-year term (1964-65)

Alex Almaraz
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Paul Moslander
Chuck Moss
Marc Nadel
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Dennis Richard
John Ryan
Phil Seuling
Jon Swartz
Bill Thailing

Appointed for one-year term (1964-65)

John Brosnan, W. Australia
James Smith, England
Peter Phillips, England

Until further notice (through THE COMIC READER), all mail concerning the ALLEY AWARDS POLL, or other general Academy matters should be directed to: Jerry Bails, 22529 Karam Ct., Warren, Michigan. Mail addressed to the Executive Secretary will be forwarded to the new Secretary as soon as that officer has been elected.

* *

ANNOUNCING Comicdom's FIRST Amateur Press Alliance--

K-α (pronounced "CAPA-Alpha")

Participating fans will receive a monthly APA-zine made up of the contributions of all members of the APA. Each member publishes his own contribution and mails a sufficient number of copies to the Central Mailer, who assembles and mails the copies to members. Here's how this specific APA will work.

(1) will be a private correspondence club dedicated to quality fan art, writing and publishing. Membership will be limited to 50 (at least for the present).

(2) Each K-alphan will be asked to pay only for the mailing costs for his own copies, which will be mailed flat.

(3) With reasonable exceptions, a member will be expected to contribute monthly 2 or 4 pages of printed (or duplicated) material of interest to members of the Academy (art, factual prose, fiction, or comments). Up to one page may be used for personal advertising.

(4) Other requirements for membership will be set by the Charter K-alphans.

The first issue of K-alpha will be mailed in September, regardless of the number of members. So, if you are interested, fill out the application below and mail it today!

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APPLICATION FOR K-α

I would like to join K-alpha. I agree to the above rules and enclose $1.00 to be applied toward postage and mailing envelopes. Please send me the deadline schedule for the coming year.

Signed______________________________

Mailing Address______________________________

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CENTRAL MAILER: Jerry G. Bails, 22529 Karam Court, Warren, Michigan 48091

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A PROPOSAL FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION:

In Dateline: COMICDOM #11, Bill Spicer suggested that faneds go together and buy ad space in Marvel Comics. I wholeheartedly concur; however, not only faneds need support this project. How about dealers and fans who just want to see Comicdom grow??? We could all profit from an ad like the following: (Just an example!)

> ATTENTION COMIC FANS! Get in on the excitement of Comic Fandom. For details on the myriad activities of Comicdom, send 10¢ & your full name & address to: ..."

If Bill would collect money & printed contributions for a brochure for new fans, I'm convinced that all Comicdom would benfit. Just say the word Bill!

ATTENTION LOCAL FAN CLUBS. COMIC APAs, and other COMIC FAN GROUPS!

THE COMIC READER will publish the announcements of meetings and other activities of any comic organization registered with the ACADEMY OF COMIC-BOOK FANS AND COLLECTORS. Any group of fans whose activities are in harmony with the Academy Charter is encouraged to fill out the registration form below.

Name of group____

General functions____

Requirements for membership____

Corresponding Secretary____

address____

phone ____________ meeting date________________

Other info____

LIST OF MEMBERS (with addresses if not given in the Directory)

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Return this form to the Executive Secretary as soon as possible.

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ANNOUNCEMENT! THE COMIC READER is considering publishing an off-set insert with pictures of fans, pros, or gatherings of same. Please send editor Glen Johnson copies of any photos you feel others would enjoy seeing. Don't forget to indentify all the mugs. (Prints can not be returned.) Thanks. (J.B.B.)

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The Comic Reader is edited and published monthly by Glen D. Johnson, Box 126, Crownpoint, New Mexico, 87313. Number 28, August, 1964. Print run for this issue, 250 copies. TCR is sold for 25¢ plus an addressed 9 inch envelope. Subscriptions beyond #32 will not be sold, and anyone sending money for issues beyond #32 will have their money returned. Supporting members of the Academy receive TCR for 20¢ an issue, plus the 9 inch envelope.

NEMESIS and MAGICMAN. Magicman will first see the light of the newsstands in "Forbidden Worlds" #125, the Jan.-Feb. issue, which will appear early in November. As for "Nemesis", that will appear in "Adventures Into the Unknown" #154, February issue, on the stands about mid Dec.

Both of these strips are being illustrated by Pete Costanza, one of the principal artists who produced "Captain Marvel" of tender memory. "I hadn't touched a costume hero since those great old days," enthused Pete, "and I'm really having fun with these two. They aren't just flying and pow in the kisser--they've got stories to them!"

Stories by Shane O'Shea. Original character developments by editor Richard E. Hughes, to whom costume heroes are far from new. Back in the old days, as I've probably mentioned to you, I dreamed up Fighting Yank, Black Terror, Doc Strange and a host of other costumed battle-boys. And by the way--here's another little piece of news you may find interesting. The greatest hero in the whole universe will shortly be unleashed by ACG. I'm talking about The Fat Fury. Uh-huh...you heard right. He makes his bow, slightly impeded by one (1) fat belly, in the March #8 issue of Herbie, on sale during the middle of January. And until you've seen our Herbie as a costume hero, you ain't seen nothin'! This is pure comedy stuff, of course, and guaranteed to make the Sphinx giggle. Herbie will don his amazing costume in one story every other issue, but this should be enough to fracture his fast-growing army of readers. The rest of the time, he'll be his customary allpowerful self in civilian quise. Ogden Whitney's doing a stickout job--he's already made Herbie the most different character on the market, and if you doubt that you'll have The Fat Fury to reckon with!

Magicman and Nemesis, on the other hand, are straight characters, rather than comic. When they pow they mean pow! Your announcement in TCR mentioned that the names of these two don't sound too hot, but I'll fight you on that all the way. Why did we wait so long to launch these fellas? Because we don't, in the main, publish character books involving the same heroes month after month. Ours are individual weird and science fiction stories, outside of "Herbie". Such stories differ in type and background and hence can't involve steady heroes. There just didn't seem to be any way to use costume heroes..yet we wanted to, because there was a vogue for them. Then I got the idea for a hero who would fit in with our format--because he was a ghost himself! That's how the concept of Nemesis was born. If you'll look up your dictionary, you'll find this definition of Nemesis--"an agent of retribution or punishment". Darned good name for a costume hero, I'd say! And as for Magicman, you'll admit that magic is proper fare in amazing stories. So make way for Magicman, a costume hero who accomplishes spectacular feats by the use of sorcery inherited from his father, Cagliostro, a medieval magician.

((I'll give way on the name for Nemesis. After finding out what type of character he is, I like the name, and the hero already. As for Magicman, the name still doesn't sound too hot. I think that THE MAGICIAN, or another name might have had more class. Of course I realize a name is relatively unimportant, and mostlikely, the character will overcome the name.

As fans must know, both Bob Jennings and myself have been trying to get the ACG to revive SKYMAN. Mr. Hughes answer to this was "Why buy the rights to it when we're pretty convinced that the new features we're launching will be better bets". I understand, and agree about buying the rights, but let's continue to bug Mr. Richards to develop a character similar to Skyman with Ogden Whitney doing the art.

I was glad to hear that there are some unpublished JOHN FORCE stories, and there is a possibility that they may appear in Forbidden Worlds, or another ACG title. If you write Mr. Hughes, mention that you would like to see these published.))

THE AVENGERS. Look for a new artist. It is reported that Don Heck will take over for Jack Kirby.

Patrick J. Musulli, Executive Editor of Charlton Comics: "By the end of summer, my plans for improving the Charlton line will be completed. 1965 will show a decided change...for the better."

STRANGE TALES #127-HT & Thing battle a mystery villain while Doc Strange takes care of the Dormammu.

ASTONISH #62-Giantman battles the Wasp and Hulk takes on the Chameleon.

THOR #110-Finds "Every Hand Against Him" when he battles Mr. Hyde, Cobra, & Loki.

IRON MAN & CAPT. AMERICA #60-"Iron Man Wanted for Murder" and Capt. battles the Assassin.

SPIDERMAN #19-battles Sandman and the Enforcers, and the Human Torch crashes another mag.

AVENGERS #10-Immortus causes the "Avengers Break Up".

X-MAN #9-Avengers and X-Men tangle as Prof. X returns, Doc Doom also gets in action along with a new villain Lucifer.

LEE WHITTLESEY sent an interesting clipping from his local paper. The article dealt with fandom, fanzine and collectors. The title, "Old Comic Books Brings Top Prices".

SGT. FURY. Since Kirby is through with the F.F. Annual, he will return to Sgt. Fury for a few more issues.

MILTON CANIFF was the guest star on "Missing Links", July 14. And as part of the game, he stated the names of his first creations were taken from a soup--Chic'n Noodles; The Air Force has given Steve Canyon an official serial number; the S.C. strips are in the Library of Congress; He received many letters of protest when he presented sequence from a basketball game, but did not give the score; S.C. appears in 650 papers, in 14 countries and 8 languages.

THE SHADOW. CONDE NASTE PUBLICATIONS now hold the copyright for the Shadow. Copyright statement is given in Shadow #2.

THE FLY and JAGUAR are not in limbo yet. ((I've seen the Fly but not the Jaguar since I got this statement.))

SUPERMAN. Look for several parallel world stories in the Superman line. Which ones, I don't know, since they will all have surprise endings.

SUPERGIRL. Beginning with the Nov. Action, Supergirl goes to college.

HAWKMAN. It is reported that Murphy Anderson has done a great job on the Shadow Thief. The title of #5 is "Steal, Shadow, Steal".

BATMAN. The next 80 page annual will have a Catwoman story. The Nov. DETECTIVE features "Hunters of the Elephants' Graveyard". When an "elephant goddess" appears to Batman, it may give you the shudders; but the new Batman won't let you down. "Batman, Son of Krypton". Yes, you read right. This is the title of the Dec. World's Finest. Batman finds evidence that he was born on Superman's home planet. The cover story of the Nov. Superman will actually show Batman's eyes through the holes in his mask!

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #32, "Attack of the Starbolt Warrior" has something new in JLA covers-no Green Lantern! Superman, Hawkman, Flash and Batman are cover-featured. This issue introduces a new villain-Brain Storm. JLA #33 is titled "Enemy from the Timeless World".

SUPERMAN & FAMILY. "Clark Kent's Incredible Delusion" is back on the schedule. The art is by Plastino. In the Dec. JIMMY OLSON, the titles are "The Demons from Pandora's Box", illoed by Schaffenberger, "Jimmy's Indian Super-Pal", and "The Ransom of Superman". The Jan. LOIS LANE cover-feature, "The Monster Who Loved Lois Lane", also in this issue, Lois tries to get Lana to marry Clark, so she can have a clear field with Superman. The Dec. ADVENTURE-"The Lone Wolf Legionnaire". This Super-land refuses to join the Legion.

BLACKHAWK #203 features the origin of Chop-Chop. Both stories are W.W. II tales.

THE ATOM #16 features the Mighty Mite against a villain who knows beforehand that he'll beat our hero! It's a book-lengther.

The next SHOWCASE features INSIDE EARTH. Then comes a new Kanigher war tryout—G.I. JOE.

BRAVE & BOLD will feature a new super-doer—METAMORPHO. The Justice Society teams are coming up---in the 1965 issues!

The Better Living Center at the WORLD'S FAIR is featuring the Cavalcade of American Comics, featured elsewhere before. Included are about 20 original daily strips of current popular features, plus many oldies (from the turn of the century on) from the Gordon Campbell (he was "TO TELL THE TRUTH" recently) collection. Included are BUCK ROGERS, JOE JINKS, some Rube Goldberg material, CAPT. AND THE KIDS, and many, many more, including PRINCE VALIANT from the 30s, with the Sunday "bonus" (Foster's THE MEDEIVAL CASTLE) included. A fan could spend a long time here! Appearing in recent shows at the exhibit: Hall Foster, Le Starr, Tony dePreta (Joe Palooka), and many more. Admission is free.

CAPTAIN AMERICA and SGT. FURY coming up in the issue-after-next of Sgt. Fury and the Howling Commandoes.

The following item was written in code, and broken with the Superman code."Coming soon! Three issues of SHOWCASE devoted to the Legion of Super-heroes!"

FANTASTIC FOUR #32 will feature the return of the Super Skrull. This ish will have a new look in some of the artwork: one of the pages was done as an oil painting! F.F. #33 will feature a different Sub-Mariner story. If my info is correct, the F.F. help Sub-Mariner fight against someone who wants to dethrone him as ruler of Atlantis! This issue will also have something different in artwork.

BATMAN. Coming in Detective, "Trail of the Talking Mask". The art is by Infantino and Giella.

Popeye is still the king. According to Variety, Popeye is the king of the Cartoons.

BLUE BEETLE. The third issue of the Blue Beetle carries a letter page called The Beetle's Nest. In B.B. #4, he meets his first costume villain, the Incredible Praying Mantis Man.

"The lead story in the December issue of BORIS KARLOFF will be drawn by Wally Wood.

Fontaine Fox, 80, cartoonist creator of the one time "Toonerville Trolley" series that appeared in more than 200 newspapers, died today in Greenwich hospital."

SLAM-BANG

The Fawcett Publishing Company is one of the most famous comic publishing houses. Its Captain Marvel has become a part of our culture; and it, like so many other publishers of the forties, has helped to set the trends which guide modern publishing houses.

Many reviews of this company have appeared. Captain Marvel and his Family have been reviewed an infinite number of times; some of the handling, as in the Xero articles, has been excellent, while other attempts have been less than mediocre. However, all of these reviews have one thing in common: all are tinted by nostalgia.

Comic book fandom has not yet seen a review of the Fawcett group which is not top-heavy with this nostalgia. No reviewer has attempted to take into consideration the quality difference between old and new publications. Few reviews have looked on the period realistically. This is partially understandable; the better reviewers lived through the period and remember it fondly - and evaluate it partially from their boyhood standards. A modern comic reader, however, will probably develop an entirely different view of the period.

The first attempt by a modern comic fan to write an <u>opinion</u> article on the forties' comics, Fawcett in particular, will appear in SLAM-BANG 2. The article, which is a discussion and review (without <u>any</u> story narration) of Gift Comics, a 1942 Fawcett giant which featured virtually every major Fawcett star of the time, is one of the first attempts to evaluate the concepts behind these old comics - the artwork, the stories and the characters. Though many modern reviewers have written articles on the period in which they allow themselves to become slanted by the nostalgia of older fans, few have attempted to truly analyze the comics of the past.

"Gift Comics and Related Topics" will be a 20-page discussion of the Fawcett characters - and other topics of related interest. Every attempt has been made to make this a literative, interesting, opinionated and factual article; and editor Rick Weingroff feels that the end product will more than fill the need for this type of article.

To give a balance between material on the past and present, the editor has prepared the second part of his Marvel review. This review will include a discussion of Spiderman and Doctor Strange (space does not permit any more of this article in issue number two) and a comparison of an objective nature of Marvel to DC. To help round out the discussion of modern comics, SLAM-BANG 2 will feature Slam-Bangers, the letter column. The policy of printing only letters which discuss opinions from previous issues helps to make this letter column informative as well as interesting.

SLAM-BANG 2 will be ready soon. You can obtain a copy by sending 50¢ (sixty cents if mailed in an envelope) to:

Rick Weingroff
3231 Southgreen Rd.
Baltimore, Maryland 21207

Slam-Bang will be printed multilith, which is the process used to print this advertisement.

FRED HARMAN
AUG. 3/1964

THE EGO CRUSHER
(Fanzine Panviews)
by
Jermey A. Barry

Rating method: A=excellent; B=very good; C=good; D=fair; F=poor. All fanzines with rating of C or higher are worth buying.

I have very few fanzines on hand this month due to my being away from my mailing address. Fortunately the ones on hand are quality publications, and it is a pleasure to review them.

FANTASY ILLUSTRATED #2 (Bill Spicer, 418-H West Stocker St., Glendale, Calif. 91202-irregular-offset-50¢ or 4 for $2.00) From the two excellent full color covers by Dick Memorick and through the remainder of its 46 pages. FI is one hell of a fine comic book. As it stands it is better than most pro comics, even though its interior art is in black and white. Don't just take my word for it, gamble and buy a copy. I think you'll agree it's worth the price.

I won't attempt to describe the four stories in this comic book; they're all worth reading. But two are especially well done. The lead story, "The Life Battery" by Eando Binder is illustrated by Landon Chesney, and artist who has captured much of the old EC style. You won't find anything like this horror story in today's pro comics. The other notable tale is Part Two of "Adam Link's Vengeance" by Eando Binder(again) and illustrated by D. Bruce Berry. When the author of this story comments in the letter column of FI that Part One of this tale illustrated and better adapted to comic format than any previous Adam Link tale by EC comics, it only serves to further convince the reader that he has the privilege to read one of the best art stories in years. Berry's art is highly professional, and Bill Spicer's adaption is equally good. In addition to the stories are two page of art by Al Williamson, and a pic by Ronn Foss. This issue is easily better than the first (over which I went into orbit), and even better issues can be expected. In the future look for FI to have a Tarzan story, and one adapted from a Ray Bradbury tale. (A+)

THE COMIC ADVERTISING REVIEW #1 & 2(Robert Jennings, 3819 Chambers Drive, Nashville, Tenn. 37211-bi-weekly-mimeographed-15¢, or 2 for 25¢, or 4 for 50¢, etc.) When I saw Bob's ad for a new adzine I thought "What for? Surely RB/CC is enough! And besides, many fans advertise in FANTASY COLLECTOR as well as other fanzines." Bob's thesis is that in order to keep ads timely, it is necessary to publish them as quickly as possible. He feels that even a monthly publication is not fast enough. I won't contest this thesis with him, but it'll be interesting to see if he's right. His biggest problem will be maintaining the bi-weekly schedule, and I think it'll be a miracle if he can still do it in the Fall when he returns to college. So far he's been right on time with the first

(con't)

two issues. He's also turned out a neat little publication, one which is easy on the eyes and a pleasure to read. These issues don't have much in the way of ads, but Bob has some interesting things to say in his editorials, and in his fanzine review column which is in both issues. In #2 he introduces a new column "The Oddity Chest". This feature will deal with obscure comics which most of us are unlikely to have heard about. The first article deals with TALLY-HO COMICS #1 which came out in 1944. There was nothing great about this item, but of interest to many fans will be the knowledge that the lead story was drawn by John Giunta and Frank Frazetta. How many of you knew that Frazetta was doing comic art 20 years ago?

THE COMIC ADVERTISER shows good promise in its first issues, but its survival depends on whether or not Bob receives enough ads to make it worth his while to keep publishing. (B)

THE COMIC WORLD #6(Robert Jennings, 3819 Chambers Drive, Nashville, Tenn. 37211, bi-monthly-mimeographed-50¢ or 6 for $2.40) This is perhaps the finest information comic journal around. Each issue presents long informative articles, the extremely valuable information Center, and a long letter column which does not print "your fanzine is the greatest" type comments.

The printing in this issue is below par as is the spelling (which is never particularly excellent). The editor informs me that this was a neccessity a rush job, and perhaps he should be excused a bit on these grounds. But I wonder if the rush job would have been necessary if Bob hadn't started a new journal (see the above review of THE COMIC ADVERTISER)? I feel very strongly that if Bob has to choose between the two zines COMIC WORLD must be continued.

The cover is a tracing from LEADING COMIC # 2 and illustrates the theme of the lead article on "The Seven Soldiers of Victory" by Glen Johnson. I have no objection to the tracing by Ray Miller, but I do object to the fact that nowhere on this cover is the reader informed that he is holding a copy of THE COMIC WORLD. The cover is misLEADING! Let's hope this doesn't happen again on any fanzine!

Johnson's article mentioned above is quite readable, but certainly not as good as his previous ones in TCW. For one thing, The Seven Soldiers of Victory have been covered in other fanzines. And although Glen's coverage is the best yet, I just can't get excited about the subject. Another thing is that Glen mentioned how poor the stories and art for these characters were and intimates that if a prize for the worst comic were being handed out, LEADING would be one of the prime contenders. I seriously question whether so much time and effort should be wasted on writing an article on bad comics when there are far better items about which to inform us.

Thomas McGeeham chips in with "An Index To ERB Characters in American and British Comic Books. If you are a collector of comics

containing Tarzan John Carter, and David Innes, this article is right up your alley. It is not exciting reading, and one can hardly expect this of an index, but it contains much valuable information for comic fans and comic dealers whether or not they're interested in ERB. There was one omission, however, and this is that SPARKLER COMICS #90-92 which carried 9 pages of Tarzan Sunday strips.

Bob Jennings contributes the final article to the issue, "Horrible, Horrible", dealing with the horror comic phenomenon of the late 40's and early 50's. It is highly opinionated piece, and while you may disagree with Bob, you'll likely find it interesting to read. (B+)

THE ROCKET'S BLAST and THE COMICOLLECTOR #31 (The S.F.C.A., 9875 S.W. 212 St., Miami 57, Florida-monthly-ditto-45¢ or 4 for $1.25) I had hoped to review #32 along with #31, but although the month of August has arrived, the latest RB/CC hasn't. This is the first time I can remember this magazine being late, and I hope this does not portend a future trend. Don't let this stop you from sampling a copy though. RB/CC is chock full of ads from those who want to sell their fanzines. In addition its 74 pages contain numerous illustrations and features. This issue has a colorful portfolio of art by Bill Spicer based on characters from WING COMICS, and some interesting mutterings by Rick Weingroff on Captain Marvel. As usual there is a letter column, and some editorial remarks. (B)

END

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REPORT ON THE FIRST ANNUAL NEW YORK COMICON

by Paul Vizcarrondo

I woke up on Monday morning, July 27, at 9:30, dressed, ate a quick breakfast, and met my two friends, Rick Bierman and Joe Amato. We took the Long Island Railroad to New York City, and arrived at Pennsylvania Station at 11:30 with the intent ion of attending the first (and hopefully) annual New York Comicon. We ate lunch and then visited Mr. Julius Schwartz at National Periodical Publications, Inc. on Lexington Avenue. When our visit was over the time was 1:30, so we decided to head for the Workman's Circle Building on 4th Avenue, site of the Con.

We decided to take the subway, and who should we meet but Bernie Bubnis and Ron Fradkin, organizers of the convention. The five of us talked until finally our stop came and we headed for the street above. Bernie and Ron were loaded down with artwork and other door prizes besides their own personal artwork and comics and thus had their hands full trying not to drop anything. We got to the meeting place at 2:00. Many fans were already there and after saying hello to those we knew and introducing ourselves to many we didn't, we all found seats and Bernie called the con to order.

(con't next page)

(New York con, con't)

After an opening speech by Bernie, Dave Sweet from Marvel Comics was introduced. Dave explained that he was filling in for Stan Lee, who was too busy to make it, and proceeded to answer questions fired at him by the fans. In the middle of the interrogation, Steve Ditko walked in and took a seat. When the questioning was over, Bernie called a recess and everyone went wild, yours truly included, buying, selling, and swapping comics.

Phil Seuling had four full cartons of old comics for sale and trade. Included in his stock were ALL-STAR, FLASH's, ALL-AMERICAN's and many other D.C.'s, MLJ's, and TIMELY's. Phil was kind enough to supply the con with several cases of soda pop, which was appreciated by the thirsty fans. Don Foote had quite a few good items for sale, and Howard Rogofsky and Bill Thailing handed out copies of their sales lists. Malcolm Willets from Califorria had ACTION #1, CAPT. AMERICA #1 and SUPERMAN #1, Tony Fabbio displayed ALL-STAR #1 and WORLD'S FAIR 1940, and Tom Lauriae showed up with WORLD'S BEST #1, to name just a few of the rare items that fans brought to the con. Other prominent fans and dealers who were present included Paul Gambaccini, Rick Weingroff, Claude Held, Marc Nadel, and Leonard Berman.

After about an hour Bernie called the con to order once again and introduced Tom Gill, who draws the LONE RANGER and BONANZA for GOLD KEY. For forty-five minutes he entertained us with his art show, and when it was over he contributed several pieces of his art for door prizes. Tom's show was enjoyed and appreciated by all.

Next on the agenda was the distribution of door prizes, everyone received something, most often a piece of art. When this was done, we all went back to buying and trading comics. It was past 6:00 when we were told by Bubnis that the con would have to break up. Everyone gathered up all their "stuff", said goodby to friends, and parted. The three of us took the subway to the train station and were soon on the train home.

Some of our afterthoughts included the fact that whereas Dave Sweet, Steve Ditko, and Flo Steinberg, Stan Lee's personal secratary, showed up from Marvel, and Tom Gill represented Gold Key, no one from DC showed up, though several people from that company were invited. Let it be said, however, that editor Murray Boltinoff did contribute a lot of art for the door prizes. Our thanks were extended to Art Tripp, who supplied each and every one of over 50 fans in attendance with a red, white, and blue button proclaiming: CONICON 1964.

The three of us agreed that the day had been very enjoyable and a big success and hoped that plans for a similar con in 1965 would be carried out.

The Origin of MAGNUS, ROBOT FIGHTER

By Russell G. Manning

In March, 1962 Jack Taylor, Art Director, Whitman Pub. Co., mentioned, in passing, that the company was considering a comicbook with the story laid in 4,000 A.D., and that I was being considered as the illustrator. Intrigued, I went to Chase Craig's office and asked about it.

Chase showed me a letter he had sent to the head office and various department heads. I do not know how much discussion Chase had had with the others prior to his letter, but the letter seemed to imply that the origin of the idea was Chase's. The points that Chase's letter marked were: That comicbook readers seem to be buying subjects not possible (because of cost, etc.) on TV. 4000 A.D. would be science-fiction adventure, ala "Jetsons", only realistic. Robots would have become the master race, subordinating man. The hero would be human, would lead the resistance, would find literature, etc. from the 20th century that would inspire the humans. The letter was dated February 26, 1962.

After discussing the idea, Chase stated that they had just started thinking about the book, and hadn't assigned a writer. I told him of my reading in science-fiction, and asked to be allowed to make a stab at it. He handed me the above-mentioned letter, and the script for the movie that had just been made of H.G. Wells' TIME MACHINE. Whitman had done the comicbook adaptation of that movie (illoed by Al Toth), and Chase stated that that format was along the lines he had been considering, only with Robots. I said that my first impression would be to make the 4000 A.D. hero a TARZAN of the future...man at his simplest. Chase said it sounded good and to 'op to it! I headed for the nearest beer and relaxed in a glow of euphoria....a whole, brand-new hero and world to create.... almost carte blanc! MAN!

Shortly, I submitted a two page layout, describing the world of 4000A.D., and the hero, as I pictured and thought of them. I personally rejected the world as TIME MACHINE showed it....too wishy-washy....and instead, pictured it much as the comicbook shows it now. But the hero, still a Tarz of the future, had a gimmick....a great stone hammer, slung at his waist, which he used to power robots. Had THOR (Marvel) been originated then? At any rate, I hadn't seen it at that time. The names I submitted were HAMMER...MANN...and MAGNUS (this latter inspired mostly my MAXIMUS, in Mary Perkins, ON STAGE strip). Chase, and his assistant, Zetta De Voe, went over my layout, made suggestions and changes, and chose Magnus as the new hero's name.

I then submitted a synopsis for a 27 page script, which Chase, Zetta... and I, in conference, went over thoroughly. I was given the go-ahead to

write the actual script, and did so. Again, Chase and Zetta tore into it, and made suggestions that, when rewritten into the script, did wonders for it. Then came the day when they said it was ready for illustration.

I had submitted costume and character studies to Chase, and these boiled down to two...a pair of trunks, red, of the material his whole suit is now, and a pair of soles that stuck to the bottom of his feet (no straps), and nothing else.

The second costume was a sleeveless jump-suit like everyone else wears in the book. We chose the trunks, as being more distinctive and simple. I then illoed the whole 27 pages, with Magnus in a pair of metal-mesh trunks and strapless sandals.

The artwork went back east, and bounced back with a request to put some clothes on the guy. Tarzan could go around bare-chested because of the Jungle (I guess), but not Magnus! Among the designs for costume I then submitted was the one Magnus now wears EXCEPT that I had indicated blue-black boots. Obviously, the red suit was the one chose, and I went through the entire artwork, putting Magnus into ceramic-durium. In the margin of the first page artwork, I made color notes to the colorist, calling for red on the suit, red-brown on his hair...and, figuring that no colorist needed a color note to know that boots are either blue-black, or dark brown, I made no suggestions for boot color. Hence...no boot color!

Ah, yes, I see I forgot the hammer! In writing the synopsis, I discussed the new hero with Dodie, wife, help-mate, and she suggested doing away with the kookie hammer, and maybe having him karate the robots, or leap up on their shoulders and UNSCREW their heads! I laughed deprecatingly at the unscrew bit, and sneakily adopted her superb "bare hand against robot metal" idea...and must certainly give her credit for what I feel is surely one of the deepest felt reasons for reader association with the Robot Fighter.

I suspect that an absolutely one-man creation is an extreme rarity, and certainly Magnus is not one of the items...quite a number of us worked to hone Magnus into the more or less consistent fellow he is. One more person also added a fine bit...Jess Marsh, at a dinner party one evening, suggested the train of thought that led to the human-brain computer in the first book. And still unknown: the name of the colorist who digs white boots!

"Postscript; or a sneaky way to get my name into print" by John McGeehan. When I commenced to write up the facts about Magnus that I had learned at the 'fanclave', I realized that I was ignorant and uncertain of too many details; so I wrote the artist of the 'Robot Fighter' in the hope that I could acquire enough data to enable me to compose something worth publishing. I not only got a reply from Mr. Manning, but he sent me the above article covering the entire subject; proving once again that he is a fan's idea of what a pro should be!

INFORMATION CENTER

narrated by Robert Jennings. Information Center is a regular feature in COMIC WORLD (40¢, 50¢ flat from Robert Jennings, 3819 Chambers Drive, Nashville 11, Tenn., 37211)

Information Centeris a readership feature which will attempt to answer any and all questions pretaining to the comics field. We invite your questions to Information Center. Any question concerning any phase of comicdom may be asked, and each issue most interesting questions and answers will be printed in this column. If you have a question, simply type or write it on an index card, or on a piece of paper separate from your letter, and send it, along with one unused five cent stamp to help defray expenses, to Robert Jennings, 3819 Chambers Drive, Nashville 11, Tenn. In order to be fair about this, we are going to have to limit each person to three questions per five cent stamp. Much correspondence is required to run down the answers to these questions, and while the Information Center staff is interested in helping you whenever we can, postage costs have a way of mounting up in a surprisingly short time, and none of us is rich (That I know of anyway). If more than three questions are asked and only one five cent stamp is enclosed, only the first three questions will be considered. If you wish a personal reply to your questions, as many of you undoubtedly will, then please enclose a stamped, self addressed envelope in addition to the unused five cent stamp(s). We don't promise to be able to answer every single question posed, but we certainly will try our best to supply the needed information. Corrections, offers of assistence, additional information and the like are always appreciated. With the ground rules out of the way, let's move on to some questions...

In STRANGE ADVENTURES #160 and in other comics and fanzines it was mentioned that Gardner Fox and John Broome have had stories published in some stf pulps. Could you find out some of the pulps they appeared in, and dates.

From Len Collins for the information on stories and from ye editor we have this. This, is the Great Fantasy finally exploded. Popular folklore, supported and abbetted by the DC editors, has it that Fox and Broome were doing work for the science fiction magazines, and were hired to write comics on the strength of this work. The simple facts are these. Vincent Sullivan, who had been doing work at DC since 1935 and maybe before, became a chief editor in 1939. He edited ACTION and DETECTIVE among other titles, and it is believed he was the person primarily responsible for introducing Superman to the world. Everyone else had turned the idea down. He did have a hand in bringing Batman to the world. Gardner Fox was hired in 1938 or '39, and was doing material in 1939 for comic books. His first story in the science fiction magazines was not published until 1945, a good six years later. It is interesting to note that Fox and Sullivan had been close friends since the second grade of grammar school.

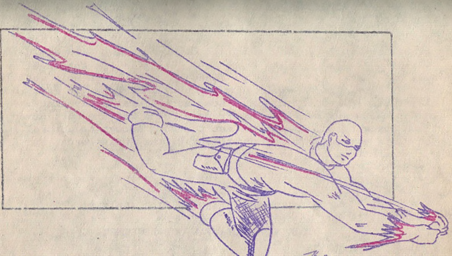
The story on Broome is more obscure. His first story saw print in 1940, but I am willing to bet money he did comic work before this. The stories these have written go like this--

Gardner Fox - Gods (novelet) PLANET STORIES Spr 1945; The Last Monster (short) PLANET STORIES Fall 1945; Nth Man (short) PLANET STORIES Winter 1945; Engins of the Gods (novelet) PLANET STORIES Spr 1946; The Man the Sun Gods Made (novelet) PLANET STORIES Winter 1945; Sword of the Seven Suns (novelet) PLANET STORIES Spr 1947; Vassals of the Lode Star (novelet) PLANET STORIES Summer 1947; Werewile of the Crystal Crypt (novelet) PLANET STORIES Summer 1948; When Kohonnes Screamed (novelet) PLANET STORIES Fall 1948; Crom the Barbarian (comic) OUT OF THIS WORLD ADVENTURES July 1950; Temptress of the Time Flow (novelet) MARVEL Nov 1950; The Spider God Akka (comic) OUT OF THIS WORLD ADVENTURES Dec 1950; The Warlock of Sharrador.

John Broome - Land of Wooden Men (novelet) FANTASTIC ADVENTURE Apr 1940; Appointment in Space (short) THRILLING WONDER STORIES Aug 1941; The Pulsating Planet (novelet) FANTASTIC ADVENTURES Sept 1941; Trail End (short) STARTLING STORIES nov 1941; Mr. Pym makes a Deal (short) FANTASTIC ADVENTURES May 1941; The Cosmic Derelict (short) PLANET STORIES Summer 1942.

The information on Broome is probably complete. The information on Fix is probably incomplete. All of this was drawn from the DAY INDEX TO SCIENCE FICTION MAGAZINES 1926-1950. The additional notes on Fix come from Len Collin's private index material. Apparently Fox went right on writing thru the boom period of the fifties. There is a rumor he also wrote as Fox B. Holden, but this is not verified.

As one who has read some of Fox's science fiction stories, I would recommend that they be avoided. His work, as you will notice, appeared in magazines which specialized mostly in fast adventure, with the science fictional content being well subordinated to the action and adventure. I have never read the work of Broome and cannot evaluate him, but I can say that Fox is one of the poorest stf writer I've ever encountered. He also has a new science fiction paperback out now, which is also supposed to be rather poor reading, it's title: ESCAPE ACROSS THE COSMOS.



From Clay Kimball, "What can you tell me about the Flame? Was he a predecessor or a copy of the Human Torch"?

From Howard Keltner and Raymond Miller, "Flame was one of the Fox characters, their second one as a matter of fact. Fox publications was one of the top companies in comics from 1939-1942, and during that time had a stable of costumes heroes, some good, many not so good. This was the home of the Blue Beetle, who is one of the all time greats, no matter what Charlton does with him today. From 1939 to 1942 Fox had published 14 different titles at one time or another. Their first comic was WONDER COMICS. Featuring Wonderman. But because Wonderman was so much like Superman, DC managed to sue him out of existence, in about two issues. With WONDERWORLD #3, the new title for WONDER COMICS, The Flame was introduced. He was the predecessor of the Human Torch by a few months. From July to November, but aside from each character's mastery over fire, I see absolutely no connection between the two. The Flame possessed a flame-gun which gushed the hottest fire you can imagine (and, like the heroes in the old western movies, never seemed to run out). Several times when he turned it on some crooks there was nothing left but a greasy spot. The fire had no effect on him tho', and he even used it to travel thru the air (by walking orrunning along a column of flame as it gushed forth from the muzzle of his gun!) The Flame managed to last until WONDERWORLD #33, the last issue of that comic, and I believe he even had a comic all to himself for a few issues. His power over fire was given to him by a Grand High Lamas from somewhere back in Tibet. Basil Barold signed his name to all the stories, but whether he was the artist or not I don't know. Fox artists and writers had such basic American names that it is probable that most of them were pen-names. The art in early issues and the very last ones were quite good. The middle period...well, everyone to his own taste.

The Flame at first used an airplane, then the flame, then he could fly under his own power. He was always dressed in his tight fitting costume of yellow. This had a blue stripe down each leg, with a blue belt and holster which carried his flame gun. All this was topped off with a red hood and a red cape. Then, in 1941, the Flame took on a dual identity as Gary Preston, and was joined by Linda Dale and Pug. In #30 Linda became Flame Girl (Flame Boy appeared somewhere, I can't say exactly), but at the end of the story in #33, Gary Preston tells her she must never use her flame power again because she isn't strong enough to control it. All in all, the Flame was never a serious threat to the Human Torch, and I can see no real connection between them." End

* *

THE BEST LAID PLANS OF MICE AND MEN
or
THE MINNESOTA FAN GET-TOGETHER

by Larry Lattanzi

The Minnesota Comicon ended up being simply a Fan Get-Together, but was still a success as such. Fen attending were ye editor, Glen Johnson; Al Kuhfeld; myself; and two new fen Steve Bastie and Tom Nygard.

I arrived in Duluth on Wednesday evening and the Bastie family was good enough to put me up. I was tired when I got there and fell asleep at 9:30 and awoke only once, at which time I walked into a wall trying to find the "room of relief". No other mishaps, though.

Glen came over the next morning in his big bad Cadillac where Steve, Tom, and I were waiting for him. Leaving word for Al Kuhfeld who was coming up from Minneapolis on his Yamaha cycle, we went riding for a while in Glen's big bad machine, stopping occasionally at news stores. When we got back, we found Al waiting for us.

Then the goodies were transported from Glen's Caddy and Al's cycle to the house. Glen had his ALL-STAR & LEADING collection, original Manning art, many of those new Super reprints, assorted first issues, & other droolables. Al has one of the best collections I have yet seen in my young life, as I had the good fortune of seeing it when I visited him in Minneapolis; but, unfortunately, he could not bring much of it with him in the saddlebags of his cycle. I had brought my meager little collection of Young Men, Human Torch, and a few other things that I had accumulated in my short life of collecting comics. Steve and Tom had very little in the way of old comics, but were very eager collectors and mostly sat and drooled over the goodies on the table in front of them.

As the day progressed, we raked many many of the old and new super-heroes over the coals, discussed the future of comic fandom, and tried to look at everything that everyone else had brought. Mrs. Bastie was good enough to feed our faces with some very good food, listening to our conversation rather disbelievingly as we asked such profound questions as:

"What do you think of Daredevil's costume?" "What company put out Zip-Jet Comics?" Etc.

We then retired back to the basement where we had put all of the comics; trying very hard to make trades which would augment our own collections. I offered Glen my best Lois Lane comic for his worst ALL STAR; but I guess he didn't want to take advantage of me, because he just wouldn't go through with it; that's what I call a friend! We did work out a few minor trades, but I just couldn't seem to get any ALL-STAR or Leading.

Glen was the first to leave, and we all eagerly offered to help him pack up all of his comics. But when he casually noticed that he was missing his entire ALL-STAR collection, after finding them accidentally placed in with my comics, he refused any further aid from us. Just before he left, we began taking pictures. With luck, fen may have the grand opportunity to see our charming faces in some forthcoming zine. Doesn't that just make your heart skip a beat?

News Credits: Editors of The American Comic Group, National. Jerry Pritchett, Dennis Richards, Lee Whittlesey, Richard Rubenfeld, Ron Fradkin, Paul Gambaccini, Harry Fitch, Richard Weingroff.

Many readers have written and asked for a letter column. What do you readers think of this? Would you like to see a letter column in TCR?

I have about 100 incomplete issues of TCR #26, and these can be had by sending a 5¢ stamped addressed envelope.

Contributors for this issue:

Red Ryder............Fred Harman
The Flame............Raymond Miller
Zine review..........Jeremy A. Barry
Info Center..........Bob Jennings
Origin of Magnus.....Russ Manning
Convention write-ups...
Larry Lattanzi and Paul Vizcarrondo

TCR is looking for artists. Those who are interested, please send a sample of their work. If you like, you could design a cover for #29 on a master, and send this. I'll use the best design.

WHO DID IT?

1. Cover artist of the two Shadow issues.
2. Cover artist of Fly #30.
3. Cover artist of Doom Patrol #89 & 90.
4. The artist now doing ECLIPSO.
5. Cover artist for MIS #94.
6. Cover artist of House of Mystery #66 & 67.
7. Artist of B&B #56.
8. Is Bob Haney still doing Eclipso.
9. Is Arnold Drake still writing the Doom Patrol stories.

After Glen left, we had supper and went down to the basement once more, where we spent the rest of the night. Al and I stayed over that night, too. We slept in the basement amongst the comics and what-have-you and stayed up talking until about 1. Al made a silent prayer to Buddha that it would be good cycle-riding weather the next day, and fell asleep.

The next we had to get up early the next morning in order that we get an early start home. After saying our farewells to Steve and thank Mrs. Bastie profusely for her hospitality, we went our separate ways, hoping perhaps we'd meet again next year. To all fen who have never met other fen; believe me, it is worth all the time and money you might have to spend.

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- -

COMICS WANTED

by-Glen Johnson
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Crownpoint, N.M.

BIG SHOT (issues before #26)

SUB-MARINER (most issues)

LEADING (#'s 1,3,4,5,6 & 13)

ALL-STAR (most issues)

ADVENTURE (with Ogden Whitney art)

- -

The TEXASCON was held at my home last Sat. (June 27th) and attended by Howard Keltner, Kent Russell, Gary Martin, Gary Acord, Buddy Saunders, Howard Waldrop, Carl Wooley, Steven Fears, and L. L. Simpson and, of course, I was there! Had quite a time and some fans were even in costumes (Viking Prince & Shadow). Probably will have a write up in SSC #6 - maybe! (Larry Herndon)